

Please take time to read this summary of AB 104 and its implications for schools and districts.

Assembly Bill 104 - New law to expand grading and recovery options for students

The state of California recently enacted a new law – Assembly Bill (AB) 104 – that will expand learning and credit recovery options for students who may have struggled academically during the pandemic-impacted 2020-2021 school year. AB 104 has three main components, each of which applies to all school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools

1. A process for students who were enrolled in grades K-11 for the 2020-2021 year to request to repeat the last grade
2. A process for high school students to change eligible grades to Pass/No Pass
3. Exemption from district graduation requirements for students in grades 11 or 12 who were not on track to graduate

Process for K-11 Students to Request to Repeat the 2020-2021 Grade

Parents and guardians can request that their student repeats the grade they were enrolled in during the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and guardians of students who were in grades K-11 in the last school year would be eligible to make this request if their student received a failing grade for at least one-half of their coursework in the 2020-2021 school year. This request would prompt a personalized consultation with a school staff member to review and discuss all learning recovery options and supports that the student could access.

How to apply: Parents/Guardians may submit a written request to the school leader or call the school office directly. The school will schedule a consultation within 30 days of submitting the form.

Process for High School Students to Change Grades to Pass/No Pass

Parents and guardians of high school students can request that a letter grade they received in the 2020-2021 school year be changed to a Pass/No Pass grade. Pass/No Pass grades are not included in GPA calculations. The California university systems are willing to accept credit/no credit grades in lieu of letter grades for all courses, including A-G courses, completed in winter/spring/summer 2020 for all students. Grades of credit/no credit will not affect the UC or CSU calculations of GPA. In addition, the universities have identified a range of other flexibilities they will offer to support students' access to college during this time. Please see the [joint statement between the colleges, universities, State Board of Education and the Department of Education](#). Note that some higher education institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass/No Pass grade.

How to apply: To request a grade change for the 2020–21 school year, the parent or guardian shall complete the [Grade Change Application - Postsecondary \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) and email the form to Lea Bolosan <lea.bolosan@kippnorcal.org> with the subject line: "Grade Change Application." Grade change applications must be submitted no later than August 15, 2021. After this time, requests will no longer be considered. Transcripts will be updated by August 30, 2021.

Exemption for 2020-2021 Juniors and Seniors of District Graduation Requirements

Finally, the law requires that high school students who were in their third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year, and who were not on track to graduate in four years, may be exempt from KIPP NorCal's graduation requirements that exceed statewide requirements. It also requires high schools to provide credit recovery support for these students, including the option to retake courses, or to enroll in a fifth year of high school, to complete state graduation requirements.

How to apply: KIPP will contact students eligible for this exemption. You do not need to contact the school.

Email sent to SLs 7/19/21

Please take some time to read this summary of [AB 104](#) and its implications for schools and districts. The region will draft messaging that will be posted on school websites and sent through ParentSquare by the end of the month. You do not need to provide additional communication to families regarding AB104.

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1. A process for students who were enrolled in grades K-11 for the 2020-2021 year to request to repeat the last grade

- Parents and guardians of students who were in grades K–11 in the last school year can request that their student repeat last year's grade level if the student received a failing grade for at least one-half of their coursework in the 2020-2021 school year. This request would prompt a personalized consultation with a school staff member to review and discuss all learning recovery options and supports that the student could access. The School Leader has the final decision on whether the student will be retained.
- Process: Parents/Guardians may submit a request through email or phone call to the school. The school will schedule a consultation within 30 days of submitting the form. The School Leader should designate a staff member (Dean, AP, or SMCC) to facilitate the consultations. A decision will be communicated to the family within 10 days of the consultation.

2. A process for high school students to change eligible grades to Pass/No Pass

- Parents and guardians of high school students can request that a letter grade they received in the 2020-2021 school year be changed to a Pass/No Pass grade. Pass/No Pass grades are not included in GPA calculations. We will provide a list of CA postsecondary educational institutions that will accept a Pass/No Pass grade instead of a letter grade on the website with the application form. Note that some higher education institutions, including those in other states, may not accept a Pass/No Pass grade.
- Process: To request a grade change for the 2020–21 school year, the parent or guardian shall complete the [Grade Change Application - Postsecondary \(CA Dept of Education\)](#) and email the form to Lea Bolosan <lea.bolosan@kippnorcal.org> with the subject line: "Grade Change Application." Grade change applications must be submitted no later than August 15, 2021. After this time, requests will no longer be considered. Transcripts will be updated by August 30, 2021.

3. Exemption from district graduation requirements for students in grades 11 or 12 who were not on track to graduate

- High school students who were in their third or fourth year of high school during the 2020-2021 school year, and who were not on track to graduate in four years, may be exempt from KIPP NorCal's graduation requirements that exceed statewide requirements. High schools are required to provide credit recovery support for these students to complete state graduation requirements, including the option to retake courses or enroll in a fifth year of high school.

- Process: The school will contact students eligible for this exemption. Families do not need to contact the school. Regional Operations will determine which students are eligible for a graduation requirement exemption. Schools should contact last year's eligible seniors by 8/6/2021 and reach out to this year's eligible seniors in the first 3 weeks of school.

Action Items from School Leaders:

- Designate a qualified staff member (you, Dean, AP, or SMCC) to facilitate retention consultations. I do not anticipate that you will have many requests from families outside of the ones who are already reaching out to you.
- Be on the lookout for a list of students who are eligible for exemption from KIPP graduation requirements. Depending on the number of students, you may need additional support meeting with families.
- Reach out to me with any questions about AB104!